

## BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

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MONDAY, JULY 31, 1916.

For President  
**WOODROW WILSON**  
For Vice President  
**THOMAS R. MARSHALL**

## THE BLACK TOM EXPLOSION

NEW YORK outdid itself in describing the explosion at the Black Tom Terminal. A great light and a great noise combined to make it appear, to the New York newspapers that the end of the world had arrived, and allusions to the last trump appear in most of the early stories which were written.

The property damage resulting from the explosion is large enough; most from fire. It will reach perhaps to \$25,000,000.

The loss of life appears to have been exaggerated. Estimates of 300 dead have fallen to not more than a half dozen, or perhaps a dozen, with a list of wounded smaller than that produced by a first class wreck on the New Haven railroad.

The truth is that the world is wound up to afford the maximum amount of security to the human creatures who inhabit it. It takes a good deal more than the explosion of \$5,000,000 worth of war material to kill very many of them. Even when men deliberately arrange parties for the purpose of killing, each other, the protective power of environment is so great it is difficult to get classy results.

Five million dollars worth of war material deliberately fired on the battlefields of Europe, in the average, would do just a little more damage to life and limb than this explosion did. The human will to kill is slightly more potent for the purpose than the same forces blindly released without purpose.

The property damage is quite another affair. Nature is not as careful of property as she is of men. Any of her trifling exasperations such as cyclones, hurricanes, earthquakes, or conflagrations make no bones of property.

One would suppose, reading the Republican platform, and noting the views expressed by the Republican leaders, that God's special interest is in property. Or perhaps Mr. Hughes charges the Almighty with neglect, and proposes to put property rights where the Republican party thinks they belong.

The Farmer has often spoken to its readers regarding the wisdom of putting their fears on a mathematical basis. The editors of New York newspapers, stirred by a little extra noise and light in the night, had a fine panic all over their newspapers. They made New York appear like the last town in Armageddon.

But most of them are hot for a war with Mexico and some of them join the belligerent colonel and would fight Germany. We assure these editors, that the lights, the noises, shocks, explosions, concussions, mangleings, woundings and slayings, together with the property losses would be much greater than those occasioned by the rebellious Big Tom Terminal.

Two men, it is said, have been placed under arrest on a charge of manslaughter, as the innocent causes of the explosion, and the deaths that followed.

Should Col. Roosevelt be placed under arrest on a charge of inciting to manslaughter?

## TOO EMOTIONAL

A DISTINGUISHED woman writer points out that two conventions of women were held in Chicago while the Republican convention was in progress. She claims, with delightful irony, that these conventions afforded proof that women are too emotional to have the ballot.

Her proof consists in the following facts:—  
The women did not, like the Republican delegates, cheer for forty minutes consecutively. They did not fight in hotel lobbies over impersonal matters. They did not bear their leaders upon their shoulders about the convention hall. They did not work to the stimulation of a brass band. They did not go to the platform carrying images of elephants and teddy bears.

Anybody who has seen the cool atmosphere of a pink tea, given by a woman suffrage association, who has then attended a pinochle party given by the Steenth Ward Republican club, with a keg of beer on the side, and oodles of smoke all about will realize that women really are too emotional for anything.

## THE BRITISH BLACKLIST

THE NOTE to Great Britain, regarding the blacklisting of American business firms, presents a remarkably strong consideration of the facts in the case. Its fatal weakness is that the American government is unable to claim that the British action is illegal. The legality of the act of parliament, under which the blacklist is framed, seems to be tacitly admitted.

The entire weight of the argument is thrown upon the moral aspect of the blacklist. It is said to be against justice, and not in accordance with those feelings of cordiality and friendship which ought to exist between nations.

The president regards the blacklist as grossly unfair to neutral business. There can be no doubt of his purpose to have Great Britain understand his position.

The note is incisive, clear and firm. It ought to bring a prompt reply from the British and a maximum compliance with the wishes of the government of the United States.

## BIG BUSINESS TO BLAME

SENATOR LAFOLLETTE, charges, in the current number of his magazine, that the war clamor in the United States proceeds from the few individuals who have accumulated billions of surplus, from American energy, which they invested in Mexico and abroad. He points to the very apparent truth that when a country comes to a place where its capitalists acquire large foreign investments, they will desire war at any point where they deem their investments threatened, or where they believe conquest would enable them to make further profits.

Senator LaFollette declares that President Wilson and Carranza are doing everything that can be done to avert war. He advises the American people not to be stampeded by

the activities of the plutocracy, carried on through their kept newspapers, magazines, orators and professors.

## Centenary of Gen.

Thomas, "the Rock  
of Chickamauga"

Many veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic will celebrate today the centenary of one of the ablest leaders of the Union cause in the civil war, General George Henry Thomas. Although in the terrible internecine strife Thomas fought beneath the Stars and Stripes, he was by birth and associations a son of the Southland. Abler generals there may have been on both sides, but braver there were none than he who won, on the bloody battlefield of the Chickamauga, the proud title of "the Rock of Chickamauga."

Born in Southampton county, Va., just one hundred years ago today, Thomas graduated at West Point in 1840 and entered the artillery. He twice fought the Seminoles in Florida, was with General Taylor in the Mexican war, and was wounded in a battle with the Texas Indians.

When the civil war broke out Thomas, like so many other southern-born officers, was forced to choose between the Union and the Confederates. He chose the former, and was denounced by his southern friends as a traitor and a renegade, although South as well as North now recognizes and respects the stern sense of duty by which he was animated.

It was in the battle of Chickamauga in September, 1863, that General Thomas became one of the heroes of the Union. "I fought under Thomas at Chickamauga," is one of the proudest statements a veteran of the Grand Army can make. On the first day of the conflict Thomas prevented the Confederates from carrying out their plan to intercept a force between Rosecrans and Chattanooga. On the second day the Confederates made determined to turn the National flank, but Thomas and his veterans stood like a wall in the way. On the Union right they were more successful than that wing of the army, the men flying in wild disorder toward Chattanooga, leaving thousands behind in killed, wounded and prisoners. In the wake of this tide went the troops led by Rosecrans, Crittenden and McCook, but Thomas, ignorant of the disaster, held his position against tremendous odds, until he was able to withdraw his troops in an orderly manner and form a line on the slope of Missionary Ridge. There the Confederates attacked in overwhelming force, but, although hard pressed, Thomas held his lines.

Longest then advanced with a greater army and the Confederates fairly swarmed around the foot of the ridge held by Thomas with the remnants of seven divisions of the National army of the Cumberland. There seemed no hope for the Federalists. Thomas stood like a rock, and his men repulsed one assault after another until darkness intervened. His ammunition almost exhausted, Thomas then retreated in good order to Rossville, having accomplished the seemingly impossible.

Soon after this battle Thomas was made the commander of the Army of the Cumberland, succeeding Rosecrans, and shared the honors of the victorious battle of Missionary Ridge. In 1864 he crushed the army of Hood, and was rewarded with the rank of major general in the regular army, and rendered a vote of thanks by Congress.

Gen. Thomas died in San Francisco, where he was in command of the Pacific division in 1870. Shortly before his death he was offered the brevet of lieutenant-general, but declined it. One of the finest equestrian statues in America was erected in his honor at Washington in 1879.

Batocki, Food Director  
of Germany, Is 48 Today

Official dictation as to what, where and when one may eat, and strict supervision as to the price of foodstuffs purchased, might seem intolerable to some people, but the Germans have seemingly accepted with considerable complacency the edicts of Herr von Batocki, the "food dictator" of the empire. It is true that some cities have claimed the right to buy their own food without asking the permission of the central bureau, but these malcontents have been quickly and effectively squelched, and Herr von Batocki now supervises the contents of the Teuton tummy as rigorously as a doctor regulates the diet of a diabetic patient.

Max Johann Otto Adolf Tortolovitz von Batocki is the complete name of the newest high priest of the great god Verboten, and President of the Imperial Food Regulation Board in his official title. He is a comparatively young man, as the world goes today, his forty-eighth birthday having been born in East Prussia on July 31, 1868. Educated at Konigsberg and the universities of Bonn and Strauburg, he served his bit with the Hussars at Bonn, and then entered upon the practice of law. From his father he inherited an estate of 1,000 acres, and five years later he began his public career as administrative official of the district of Königsberg. He retired from that office in 1907, but continued active in public affairs as a stalwart conservative, and was called to the Reichstag in 1912. During this period he wrote many newspaper articles dealing with economic, social and political questions, and through these he first attracted the attention of the Kaiser. Although progressive in his "land reform" proposals, Herr von Batocki was an ardent defender of the divine right of the Hohenzollerns, thus illustrating in his own person the strange combination of medievalism and super-modernism which is the characteristic of the Germany of today. Early in the war Batocki was appointed chief president of East Prussia, a large part of which had been devastated by the Russians. At the time he was about to go to the front as an officer, but the appointment relieved him of military duties. His highly effective work in the reconstruction of East Prussia attracted the attention of the Kaiser, and when the latter decided that a food dictator was necessary, Herr von Batocki was relieved of his duties in Königsberg and placed in charge of the bureau in Berlin.

William Huff, 14, of Point Pleasant, N. J., was drowned while canoeing in the Manasquan river.

The Leavenworth and Topeka railroad, 56 miles long, has been sold by the Santa Fe and the Union Pacific, joint owners, for \$250,000, to Kansas City interests.

Warns Public Against  
Fraudulent Infantile  
Paralysis "Cures"

Officials of the Department of Agriculture charged with the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act expect that the outbreak of infantile paralysis will tempt unscrupulous persons to offer for sale so-called "cures" or remedies for this dread malady. They, therefore, have issued special instructions to the Food and Drug inspectors to be particularly alert for interstate shipments or importations of medicines, the makers of which allege that they will cure or alleviate this disease, for which, at the present time, no medicinal cure is known. The officials also warn the public that any preparation put on the market and offered for sale as being effective for the treatment of infantile paralysis should be looked upon with extreme suspicion. Inspectors, accordingly, have been instructed to regard as suspicious, and to collect samples of, all medicines in interstate commerce for which such claims are made. Makers of such fraudulent remedies will be vigorously prosecuted whenever the evidence warrants action under the Sherman Amendment to the Food and Drugs Act. So-called remedies for infantile paralysis which are offered for import into the country will be denied entry.

The Food and Drug officials are particularly watchful in this instance because it has been noted in the past that whenever a serious epidemic exists, unscrupulous dealers prey upon the fear or ignorance of the public by flooding the market with worthless, hastily prepared concoctions, for which they assert curative properties which have no foundation whatever in fact. In the present instance, inspectors already have discovered shipments of a few such mixtures.

The Department will do everything it can under Federal law to protect that portion of the public which is extremely credulous in times of panic and which will grasp at anything which promises protection or relief. The sale of such products at this time, the officials point out, is particularly threatening to the public health because many persons, relying on the false statements of importers, neglect to secure competent medical advice. As a result, not only is the safety of the patient endangered, but in the absence of proper sanitary precautions, the likelihood of contagion is greatly increased.

It must be understood, however, that that portion of the public which applies only to products which are shipped in interstate commerce, that is, from one State to another, or which are offered for import or export, or which are manufactured or sold within a territory or the District of Columbia, and which are made in and consumed wholly within a single State are subject only to state laws as may apply and are under the control only of state health officials. The Federal law does not apply, for instance, to patent medicines made within the State of New York and sold in New York city. Persons buying or using a "remedy" made in their own state, therefore, must rely on the protection accorded them by their local health authorities.

Convict Who Escaped  
and Became Chief of  
Police to Hold Job

MAON, Ga., July 31.—Thomas Edgar Stripling, who for nearly four years while an escaped convict from Georgia served as chief of police at Danville, Va., under the name of R. E. Morris, passed through here today en route to his family at Columbus, Ga., and announced that news of pardon Saturday by Governor Nat E. Harris had been followed by an offer from Danville of his position as police chief there.

The former chief of police said he would rest for a short time before deciding what to do. Stripling killed his neighbor, W. J. Cornett, in Harrisburg, Ga., in 1897, and after sentence to life imprisonment, escaped. He went to Virginia and became head of the Danville police force. In 1911 he was identified and brought back to Georgia to complete his term.

British Now Employing  
144 Vessels Seized

LONDON, July 31.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of war trade, informed the house of commons this afternoon that 144 vessels flying the flag of hostile countries were seized in British ports, 12 in French ports, 30 in Russian ports, and 58 in Italian ports. All the ships seized in British and Italian ports, he said, were being employed.

A considerable number of vessels also had been captured on the high seas, the minister said, while 71 boats, 20 of which were sailing ships, seized by Portugal. The latter will be employed when repairs are completed.

## COFFEE SEIZED AS PRIZE.

LONDON, July 31.—Holding coffee to be food stuff, Sir Samuel Evans, president of the prize court, condemned today in that court 3,000 bags of coffee shipped from Africa to Gothenburg on the Swedish steamer Indiane and Sydland. The court decides that the cargoes were in reality intended for Germany.

## WOODMEN IN CONVENTION

Binghamton, N. Y., July 31.—Five hundred Woodmen of the World from New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Rhode Island arrived in this city today for the annual convention of the order.

## REGISTRARS' NOTICE

The Registrars of Voters will be in session at their office, Room 4, City Hall, State street, from Friday, August 4th, to Saturday, August 12th, inclusive, (Sunday excepted) from 12 o'clock noon until 9 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of enrolling those electors who may desire to participate in the primaries to be held after August, 1916.

The Registrars will retain the names of those electors heretofore appearing on the primary list, unless requested to transfer or erase same.

JAMES H. ROONEY,  
WILLIAM LOUNSBURY,  
General Registrars of Voters.

Son-in-law of Kaiser,  
Whom, Allies Say, War  
Has Turned Insane

Duke of Brunswick

It has been widely reported that the Duke of Brunswick, husband of the German emperor's only daughter, has become insane as a result of his war experiences. The duke, it is said, never recovered from the shock of seeing the entire organization which he commanded on the Russian front sink to death in a treacherous marsh which the men had entered thinking it afforded solid footing. Later he was in command of the Zieten hussars on the western front and was reported missing. Ernest Augustus, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, a prince royal of Great Britain and Ireland, was married to Princess Victoria Louise in Berlin on May 24, 1913. He is a son of the Duke of Cumberland and grandson of King George V. of Hanover. He is 29 years old and at the opening of the war held the rank of colonel of hussars in the Prussian army. A son was born to the duke and duchess March 18, 1914, and another son born March 25, 1915.

## JOHN ERICSSON

The first screw propeller for navigation and the first steam fire engine seen in America were the inventions of John Ericsson, famous in the annals of naval warfare as the builder of the Monitor, who was born in Wernsland, Sweden, 113 years ago today. In his young manhood Ericsson attained the rank of captain in the Swedish army and became an eminent engineer. Later he went to England and perfected several inventions, as well as winning a prize offered by the Manchester and Liverpool railway for the best locomotive, building one that attained the then astounding speed of 50 miles an hour. His invention of the screw propeller did not meet with the approval of the British admiralty, so Ericsson came to America in 1839 and settled in New York. In 1841 he was engaged to apply his propeller to the United States warship Princeton, which was the first steamship ever built with the propelling machinery below the water-line and out of the reach of shot. In 1840 he constructed the first American steam fire engine. The Monitor, which fought the Merrimack in the civil war, revolutionized naval warfare. In this famous craft Ericsson utilized the revolving turret invented by T. R. Timby. Ericsson died in New York in 1889. His remains were sent to his native Sweden, on board a United States cruiser.

LARRY DOYLE  
IS 30 TODAY

Captain Lawrence Doyle, the veteran second baseman of the Giants, will pass his thirtieth birthday today. The 1916 batting champion of the National League is a native of Caseyville, Ill., a village being situated within the confines of Illinois. His youth was largely spent in the town of Breese, about forty miles east of St. Louis, and until his marriage Larry usually spent his winter months in that vicinity. Since then he has made his winter home in Jacksonville, Fla.

It is altogether unlikely that the Caseyville swatter will be at the top when the 1916 batting averages are compiled. In the early part of the season Captain Larry pulled off some remarkable hitting and base running, but since then he has made his occasional dreamy slumps when his swatting slams seemed to be burning dimly. Taking his performances as a whole, however, it may be said that Doyle, at the venerable age of thirty, shows no signs of slipping.

As "most everybody" knows, Doyle was a coal miner in his youth, and before he was old enough to enter the mines he helped to eke out the family income by delivering papers and tolling in a grocery emporium. He was eight when he landed his first regular baseball job with the Mattoon, Ill., club. After two seasons with Mattoon he was hired by Springfield, Ill., and in the middle of the 1907 season he was bought by McGraw.

In the eight complete seasons he has played with the Giants, Doyle has batted over 300 five years. His highest average, .380, was made in 1912, and his lowest, .260, in 1914. The latter slump followed the injury he sustained when exercising his new motor car. Larry tried to run over a full grown tree, and in the attempt—which was unsuccessful—he severely injured his shoulder.

Although a speedy baserunner, he is not the fastest in the business, but he probably loses less time in cutting the corner at the initial bag than any other player. This happy facility enables Larry to stretch what would be a single for an ordinary runner into a two-bagger.

Primer Want Ads, One Cent a Word.

RUSSIANS AT THRESHOLD  
OF THIRD YEAR OF WAR  
CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS

Czar's Men on the Offensive  
Along the Greater Part of  
Their Western Front—Out-  
look Today in Striking Con-  
trast to Conditions a Year  
Ago.

Petrograd, July 31.—The beginning of the third year of the war finds Russia on the offensive along a large part of her western front. In the Caucasus Russian forces are pushing westward well beyond Erzerum and Southward toward the Mesopotamian border. Her armies have been reorganized and strengthened and the shortage of ammunition, which was responsible for one of the most spectacular and at the same time one of the most successfully conducted retreats in history, has been remedied. Today she has shells, cannon and small arms in abundance. Her munition factories have been improved and enlarged and are putting out large quantities of war materials in addition to the enormous shipments arriving from abroad. The personnel of the troops is as high, if not higher, than it was a year ago. The present financial needs have been adjusted through loans placed in England, France and America.

The outlook today presents a striking contrast to that of last August which saw the fall of Warsaw and the continuation of the retirement of the Russian armies, with the Germans and Austrians, buoyed up with a long succession of victories, still fiercely engaging in rear guard attacks. The turning point came early in the fall. On September 9 the Russians stopped the Austrians at Tarnopol. The German wave of invasion continued to roll onward but in the latter days of September it had spent its force. The Russian armies turned upon the enemy along the line of the Dvina, Berezina, Shara, Styr and Sereth rivers and checked them there. Desperate repeated efforts of the Germans to capture Riga, a prize which would have helped to establish winter bases, failed. They attacked again and again throughout the winter but the Russian line held—and still holds.

Emperor Nicholas took personal command of the armies early in September and since then has been continuously at the front. He has been here and there along the front, counselling officers, cheering and encouraging the men. He appointed General M. V. Alexeeff, who was the right hand man of General Ivanoff during the latter's brilliant campaign in Galicia during the winter of 1914, to be chief of staff, and Grand Duke Nicholas, hitherto commander-in-chief, was assigned to command in the Caucasus.

The winter saw offensives and counter offensives locally in various sections of the western front, but definite advance was undertaken only in January when the Russians moved forward slightly along the 200 mile line from Czartorysk to the Rumanian frontier—the scene of General Brusiloff's recent successes; but the spring thaw put an end to the movement and the armies settled into another period of inertia which lasted until the beginning of June when General Brusiloff, who had recently been appointed successor to General Ivanoff as commander of the southern armies, began the drive which carried the Russian front forward to the Stok and Kolomea on the west and overran the entire province of Bukovina.

Meanwhile Grand Duke Nicholas had been justifying the wisdom of his appointment to the command in the Caucasus. He reorganized the armies which had been carrying the struggle against the Turks with varying success since the beginning of the war and by New Years had started a campaign along definite lines. The Turks were driven back upon Erzerum and the Russians, on February 16, after overcoming what appeared to be insurmountable obstacles in the way of difficult mountainous roads along a total front of 275 miles from the Kovel-Sorn railway to Rumania. The Russian commander cut the forces under General Pflanzer into pieces and shoved them into the Carpathian mountains; had General Bothmer, commander of the defense west of the Stok, General von Boehm-Ermoll hard pressed before Brody in Galicia, the eastern defense of Lemberg, and General von Linsingen and Archduke Ferdinand engaged in a life and death struggle along the Stokhod before Kovel.

General Brusiloff's stupendous bag of prisoners, according to the latest estimates, numbers 300,000 officers and men, and this is still being increased by thousands and tens of thousands from week to week. It is declared that probably an equal number have been put out of action, counting the dead and wounded. His booty in guns and equipment runs into extravagant figures.

Prospects point to average crop conditions. The shortage of field hands and consequent curtailment of cultivation has been partially overcome by the employment of prisoners of war. The high prices of food are due as much to difficulties in transportation as to shortage of provisions. The scarcity of meat for civilian consumption is due to the fact that the soldiers, who before enlistment were small consumers, are now receiving daily rations of meat. Considerable benefit is accruing to the Russians from the captured fields where they are profiting from the thrift of the Gallians. One of the first requisitions made by General Brusiloff was for hands to harvest the abundant crops.

It is a fact widely commented upon here, in Moscow, Kiev and elsewhere that the new troops, recently called to the colors, are sturdy men of good physique and equal to the best troops of the first line.

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FOOD PRICES IN  
WARRING NATIONS

In all of the warring nations the prices of foodstuffs have advanced greatly since the beginning of the war, but it is in Germany that the prices have soared the highest. The latest estimates place the average increase in prices between July of 1914 and July of 1916 at about 100 per cent. In the Austro-Hungarian empire average increase is perhaps not quite so high, and it is placed at about 85 per cent. In Great Britain the average increase in the retail prices of food since the commencement of the war is estimated at about 55 per cent. In France it has been about 50 per cent, and in Italy about 30 per cent. Russia, because of her vast productive population and great agricultural resources, has felt the strain less keenly than any of the other powers, and while accurate estimates are impossible, it is likely that the average increase in the necessities of life has been only 10 to 15 per cent. Except for the stringent official regulation of the sale and consumption of food stuffs in Germany, it is probable that the Kaiser's subjects would now be facing starvation. Meat, butter, lard, eggs, beans and lentils have soared highest in Germany. Milk and dairy products have become luxuries for the rich. The increase in beef and mutton prices is about 125 per cent, but pork has increased only about 75 per cent. The government has attempted to keep potatoes at a low price, but at times they have been practically unobtainable. In Russia the prohibition of alcohol has effected a saving to the people which probably more than compensates for the increased price of foods.

## WHERE OUR COAL GOES.

Washington, July 31.—Railroads in the United States in the last year used 48 per cent of the country's total coal production. Figures compiled today by the geological survey show that 128,200,000 tons went that way.

## THEY ARE STILL

Going out, those guaranteed wheels. The kind the boys like  
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Our heavy service tread in Nobby Studs, etc. A big seller at \$3.50 each  
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If in need of a tire, don't miss these.

Other grades in guaranteed tires  
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19c

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Extra good lines, 25c and 29c.

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Twisted and Braided Cotton Line and Manila Rope cut any length, 1c foot.

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